

Reflection Friday Week 3 Saints Timothy and Titus 2024

Saints Timothy and Titus were converted to Christianity by St Paul, and became his companions and helpers. Paul entrusted Timothy with the care of the Christians in Ephesus, and sent Titus to Crete to look after the Christians there. He wrote them the so-called “pastoral” epistles, giving advice for pastors and people alike.

Paul reminds Timothy and Titus that they have been given God’s gift. A gift that was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. It was the same gift that he received at his conversion and the same gift we have also received in baptism and is renewed in us in the eucharist. Just as Jesus sent out his early disciples as bearers of peace and of healing, he has us sent out to do the same with the same powers. He asks us only to trust him and know that he will work through us.

Paul understood this only too well in sending out Timothy and Titus to watch over the people over whom they had given them charge. St Paul:

For even when we came into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way — external conflicts, internal fears. But God, who encourages the downcast, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his arrival but also by the encouragement with which he was encouraged in regard to you, as he told us of your yearning, your lament, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced even more. 2 Cor 7:5–7